APPENDIX D.

DEWAN'S CLOSING ADDRESS TO THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, 21ST JUNE 1921.

GENTLEMEN,

Our work for this Session has now been concluded and before we disperse, I should like to say a few words regarding its main features. The discussion on the subjects was finished earlier than was expected as most of the subjects standing against the names of members belonging to the Brahmin community were withdrawn by those members with a few exceptions and did not come up for discussion. Members from that community did not also take part in the discussion of the budget Except in the case of one or two subjects in regard to which subsequent orders of Government or discussions in the Economic Conference rendered further discussion here unnecessary, it was apparent that the withdrawal of subjects was due not to the representations themselves having become unnecessary, but to some real or fancied cause of dissatisfaction of which Government were not cognisant. It was subsequently suggested that the dissatisfaction was probably due to some parts of the rules newly issued regarding the regulation of the conduct of business in the Assembly, while one member said that there were also other reasons which, however, he did not explain. In any case, may I point out that, apart from the merits of the case, the more correct and constitutional course on the part of the malcontents would have been to bring the matter forward openly at the time instead of sulking during the discussions and depriving the electors, whose representatives they are, of the opportunity of laying their views before the Government and having their grievances considered?

Elected representatives are not in order if they refuse to bring forward matters for representing which they have been deputed by the electors. It is open to them to resign their seats, but to retain their seats and attend the Session and then refuse to bring forward those matters amounts in my opinion to breach of faith with the people by whom they were elected and to whom they are answerable. I would be failing in my duty if I did not point out to you that such action, although confined to members numbering only about 35 per cent of the total membership is exceedingly ill-advised and bound to reflect on the reputation for good sense and sobriety which the Assembly has all along maintained. If this attitude on the part of a handful of members should be persisted in, it may, I feel constrained to observe, become necessary to consider measures whereby the object of representative institutions may not be defeated and the interests of the people as a whole may be safeguarded. I however venture to hope that this is but a passing phase and that when we meet again in October, wiser counsels will prevail.

As regards the rules of procedure newly issued, the members who expressed dissatisfaction themselves admitted that the powers of the President, as stated in the rules, were already vested in him and that these rules only put together in connected form the powers and practice as now existing. I also pointed out that the language of the rules that was taken exception to is identical with that of the corresponding rule relating to the procedure of the Indian Legislative Assembly. I may however say that these rules are not immutable like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, but can be amended and modified as experience indicates.

Of the subjects discussed during this Session, I am pleased to note that measures for the amelioration of the depressed classes occupy a large place, and very rightly too. It has been suggested that the Panchamas should be settled in colonies on lands granted to them free of upset price and on a special tenure and that they should also be granted *takkavi* loans to enable them to bring the lands under cultivation. The provision of increased facilities for education and medical aid to these classes is another measure urged for consideration. All these are

matters which have recently been engaging the consideration of the Government and were intended to be assigned to the proposed Depressed Classes Board as part of its functions. Pending the constitution of the Board, Government will instruct the respective departments to bestow sympathetic attention to the needs of members of these classes in such matters.

Next in importance and the volume of opinion behind them come the various questions connected with the relations of the Forest Department and the raiyats. The Government are alive to the petty hardships and annoyances that are sometimes the lot of the raiyat in such matters and will investigate the representations further during the year. I must however point out that, so long as the people depend on State and District Forests, for the conservation of which they take no responsibility, they must be prepared for some inconveniences which are incidental to departmental management. The only remedy is for the people to have their own village forests, for which the Government are prepared to give them suitable lands and other facilities.

Mr. Nagappa of Turuvekere Sub-Taluk has put forward a very useful and timely suggestion in regard to the payment of interest on the State Loan Bonds held by residents in villages. He suggests that the interest due should, if possible, be paid in the villages where the holders reside. In the alternative, he proposes that arrangements may be made to accept interest coupons towards payment of land revenue. The suggestion is one which is calculated to benefit the bond-holders and the Government alike and I shall, as already promised, get the question investigated and provide the necessary and feasible facilities very early.

Regarding the discussions on the budget, I should like to compliment the members who took part in it on the thoroughness with which they had studied the draft budget and the increasing grasp of its details evinced by them. It is very gratifying that a large number of members took part in the discussion, so much so that the budget had to be given three days instead of only two as usual. The suggestions that have been made will all receive careful consideration. Many of them have already been before Government. In some cases, orders accepting such suggestions in regard to retrenchments have been passed and in others, the proposals are under active consideration. Among them, I may mention the abolition of the post of Forest Economist, the abolition of several Secretariat appointments, reduction in the number of peons, increasing the number of working hours of University Professors and the closing of the Home Industries Classes. The suggestion regarding Foreign Scholarships being all treated as recoverable loans will be examined. The Industries and Commerce Department will be asked to take special measures for the recovery of outstanding instalments of loans. The complaints regarding the working of the Income-tax Regulation will be enquired into by the Government. I may point out that any cases of excessive assessment can be set right during the coming year as the assessments now made are provisional with reference to the income of the previous year and liable to revision with reference to the actual income of the current year as ascertained after the close of the year.

Educational subjects, as usual, received considerable attention at the hands of members who have asked for larger allotments under various heads. Government are anxious to make a large advance in regard to the extension of education, especially in rural parts, but as I explained in another connection, such advance is possible only if further funds are made available to them. Some members have asked that the levy of the education cess may not be brought into effect; I hope, however, that the community as a whole will realise the urgent necessity for more funds for purposes of education and agree to the levy of the cess.

Before closing, there is one matter of public interest which I wish to take this opportunity of mentioning to you. It is now an open secret that Mr. C. R. Reddy, our Inspector-General of Education, is voluntarily retiring from the service in a few weeks with the view of entering public life in British India. Mr. Reddy has been with us for the past nearly 13 years in various capacities, as Assistant to the Inspector-General of Education, as Professor, and subsequently Principal, in the Maharaja's College and finally as Inspector-General of Education. I need not say how ably he has discharged the duties of all these offices. His administration of the Education Department during the past three years has, if I may say so, been a brilliant landmark, and the recent resolution of Government on educational policy

to which several of you made appreciative reference was, in no small measure, due to his initiative. It is therefore with regret that the Government have decided to permit him to retire from the service and I feel sure that this regret will be shared by most of you who are present here. Let us, however, wish him all success in the new sphere of activities which he is now entering and for which his great gifts so eminently qualify him.

I now declare the Session closed.

SPEECH MADE BY MR. GULAM AHMED KALAMI BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY.

Sir, Many of the members of this Assembly who came to represent at least 97 per cent of the population of Mysore and who have from the commencement of this Assembly taken a very active part in the deliberations of this Assembly have asked me to convey to you their most respectful thanks for the very patient and courteous hearing you have accorded to their humble representations. I am also asked to say a few words to express their innermost feelings and thoughts that are uppermost in their mind at the present moment.

This Session of the Assembly is rather unique and, in many respects, it is worth being remembered. It has been preceded by two very democratic measures that Government have decided to adopt for the amelioration of the masses and the backward classes and also the depressed classes living in the State. We need not say how grateful we feel for the steps taken by our benign Government with this benevolent object. The issue of orders in connection with the Education Memorandum and also in connection with the famous Miller Report are indeed very gratifying to us, though, in some respects, the orders of Government may not go as far as we would have liked them to, but still, we are always thankful for any favours that Government may show towards us. After all, any good measures taken for the betterment of a large population are indeed for the betterment of the State as a whole, and we hope that a large number of people and subjects of His Highness the Maharaja are willing and have determind to give to the Government their helping hand to make the scheme a success in every direction.

Sir, the Education Memorandum, I may also call it a memorable Memorandum, that was submitted by our very talented Inspector General of Education, Mr. C. R. Reddy, will indeed, as you have put it, be a landmark in the annals of the administration of this State and I am sure many of thsoe who are present here are grateful to him for all the efforts he has put forth in this direcation. The Memorandum will not only benefit us, but it will also tend to help others who are struggling in that direction in other parts of India. We are fortunate in one thing and that is, in having made a beginning in that direction in our State. We always miss the great author of that Memorandum, because he will not be here, to our misfortune, to carry out and to put in practice those great ideals of his; but we hope, and we sincerely hope, that our benign Government will so arrange matters that all the benefits that have been thought of will be accorded to the community at large who are deeply concerned in the enlightenment of the people. Sir, in connection with this Memorandum, we sincerely hope that, with the kind disposition that Government have shown towards the improvement of the people at large, they will put, in place of Mr. Reddy, an officer who will show all possible sympathy to that cause and who will carry out the intentions of Government for affording facilities for educating the people of this State.

I shall also refer to the orders passed by Government with regard to the Miller Committee report. The report is the result of very sincere efforts made by Goverment to arrive at proper conclusions. Certainly, there may be in certain quarters dissatisfaction expressed in certain respects. But we must, on behalf of a large number of people, try to see that Government do not overlook the claims of a large body of people. Sir, those who are acknowledged to be backward in several directions will, I am sure, be redressed of their many grievances. We fully believe that, if the recommendations made by that Committee are carried out, they will contribute towards furthering and improving the efficient administration of the State rather than contribute towards the inefficient working of the State.

Sir, this Session, as you have remarked, has been in certain respects remarkable for the non-co-operation of those elected members of the people who had come with a mind to represent the grievances of the people in various ways. Their silence, in our opinion, is to be regretted, but we hope that, on further consideration, they will see the necessity of doing their duty hereafter and working harmoniously with a large body of the people of the State on whose behalf they always claim to sit in this Assembly. We, the representatives of the people, have up to this time shown in our humble way that we too can, in case of necessity, rise to the occasion in certain respects. We can assure you that not only in co-operation, but also in the organisation of our affairs, we are second to none as we have shown in this Session. I must conclude my speech though I have not fully discharged the duty entrusted to me in a manner which could be satisfactory to myself, but still, I hope in the sincerity of the purpose that I have in my heart, I am second to none.

In conclusion, I request you Sir, once more to accept our grateful thanks for all your kindness and courtesy, and we are sure that we will continue to better our condition in the future as we have done in the past.

I now request you to kindly convey our most loyal and respectful homage to His Highness the Maharaja who, we know and believe, is the greatest asset that Mysore possesses.